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EXPLANATION OF PLATES VIII-IX

Plate VIII

1. The dubious Linnean type of *Ramalina calicaris* at London. (Nat. size.)
2. One of the determinable Linnean types of *Ramalina calicaris* at London.
3. The Retzius type of *Lichen scopulorum* at Lund. (Nat. size.)
4. Acharian authentic material of *Ramalina scopulorum* var. *c. cuspidata* at London. (Slightly reduced.)
5. The Nylander type of *Ramalina evernioides* at Paris. (Nat. size.)

Plate IX

1. The Acharian types of *Parmelia polymorpha* and the varieties *flabellulata*, *strepsilis*, *tinctoria*, *capitata*, *ligulata*, and *emplecta* at Helsingfors. (Nat. size.)
 2. The Acharian types of *Ramalina pollinaria* and the varieties *elatior* and *humilis* at Helsingfors. (Nat. size.)
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NORTH AMERICAN FLORA, Vol. 15, Parts 1 and 2

Sphagnaceae—Leucobryaceae.

Every student of North American Mosses has looked forward with eagerness to the appearance of Volume 15, and the two parts already issued will receive a warm welcome.

Part 1 includes the *Sphagnaceae* by Albert LeRoy Andrews, the *Andreaeaceae* by Elizabeth Gertrude Britton and Julia Titus Emerson, also the *Archidiaceae*, *Bruchiaceae*, *Ditrichaceae*, *Bryoxiphiaceae*, *Seligeriaceae*, by Mrs. Britton. Part 2, *Dicranaceae*, *Leucobryaceae*, by Robert Statham Williams.

The style and arrangement, the exclusiveness and inclusiveness are in keeping with the other parts already published. No work on North American mosses has ever been so inclusive or complete, as the range includes all the Americas except South America and adjacent islands.

The arrangement of families and genera in the main follows Engler and Prantl, but the subfamilies of the *Dicranaceae* are in many cases raised to family rank, a procedure that is of questionable desirability.

The conservative attitude shown in the matter of creating new species will meet with general approval we feel sure. The number of new species is very few—seven were all that were noted—and these were from the little explored regions of the range.

Linnaeus, 1753, is taken as the starting point of binomial nomenclature in mosses as in flowering plants and there are no startling innovations in nomenclature. Most of the names used that differ from those in our earlier literature have become fairly familiar to those who have used recent publications on North American mosses.

From the writer's point of view the work could be improved in usefulness along two important lines; by the description of many more of the important variations, either as forms or varieties and by the more abundant use of critical and comparative notes. It may be added that this is not an oversight on the part of the editors, but a deliberately prejudged plan. However, the authors have been allowed considerable individuality. Dr. Andrews describes six varieties in connection with thirty-nine species of *Sphagnum*, but he gives practically no notes. Fortunately Dr. Andrews has furnished the readers of THE BRYOLOGIST with very much more exhaustive notes than would have been possible in this work. We hope that the other authors will somewhere publish a similar set of notes as they must be in possession of much valuable information that will perish with them unless it is published outside the North American Flora.

Mrs. Britton's work shows almost no notes, two varieties under *Ditrichum* and four forms under *Ceratodon purpureus*.

Mr. Williams has inserted frequent notes of the greatest helpfulness, but recognizes no varieties and does not describe forms. *Dicranella heteromalla orthocarpa* (Hedw.) E. G. B. is not even differentiated as a form, but the species is described as having the "capsule erect or nodding . . . usually more or less curved and becoming furrowed and contracted under the oblique mouth when dry and empty." Surely such omissions are not helpful, as the straight-capsuled form is overwhelmingly preponderant along the Atlantic seaboard and correspondingly infrequent inland, at least in New England.

The reduction of *Dicranum viride* to *D. fulvum* will come as a surprise to most of us. It may be that intergrading forms are more abundant than has been supposed. The writer's limited experience with the two species has shown *D. fulvum* as an exclusively rock-growing species and *D. viride* as usually found on decayed wood.

Whatever adverse criticisms may have been made above, it is in no way meant to belittle the great and lasting value of the work. At no other time or place in the history of American botany has there ever been such an abundance of material for producing a complete and authoritative work on North American mosses and there is every indication that this wealth of opportunity has been used skillfully and conscientiously. For the student of our mosses Volume Fifteen will have no equal or substitute.

A. J. GROUT.

We learn that the valuable European moss collection of Dr. G. Schellenberg, Berlin-Steglitz, Zimmermannstrasse 9/II, embracing about 20,000 numbers is now offered for sale.—EDITOR.

It has been suggested by Mrs. Annie Morrill Smith that an informal gathering of those members of the Sullivant Moss Society who may attend the coming Atlanta meeting of the A. A. A. S. would be a very pleasant occasion. This is worth bearing in mind.—EDITOR.